BEST OF LUCK FATHER DUCKER
AND MAY GOD ALWAYS BLESS
YOU.

R.T. VALENTINE

MARCH 31, 1985

DEVOTIONS

FOR THE

FAMILY AND THE CLOSET.

FROM

THE MANUAL

OF

A COUNTRY CLERGYMAN.

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PREFACE.

THESE words of Christian prayer lay claim to no merit beyond simplicity and sincerity; but it may be that to some hearts they may come more home, on that very account. In this hope they are made public: their author casts them in as his secret mite, into the treasury of the Church of GOD; if they add but one living stone to the temple, he is more than repaid.

The FAMILY Devotions are prefaced by selections from the Psalms for each evening of the week, and an order of scripture reading for the morning, arranged for the whole year. This is done not to dictate to the instructed, but to guide the ignorant; to facilitate, in short, the important duty of family scripture reading, by relieving those not sufficiently

familiar with the Bible from the task of selection; a difficulty greater in practice than will be readily conceived by those who have not themselves experienced it.

The Prayers which follow for SPECIAL occasions, are to be read or not, at discretion, according to time and circumstance. They are intentionally few in number, being designed rather to suggest and encourage the formation of *social* petitions, than to provide what it is evident no forms can do, for the ever varying circumstances of a family. It is with this view, that in binding up the work, a few blank leaves of writing paper are directed to be inserted in this and the following part.

The Devotions for the CLOSET are from a more private diary, and are added to the volume, not without many misgivings. They are the record of individual feelings, and as such bear date; that mark of genuineness having been retained from the persuasion, that whatever sympathy is thereby awakened, fits them better to bestow spiritual comfort. They are

given, therefore, for such as may chance to find them appropriate; nor is it probable that number will be small. In private prayer, the common wants of humanity bring us all to a common language. Penitence and thankfulness in some form or other, must be the burthen of every human petition; and expressed in sincerity and simplicity, will find an answering response in every bosom. The heart, while it thinks of its own grief, finds utterance in another's equal sorrow, and thus drinks in, as it were, grace and strength from a common fountain.

In this hope and persuasion they are put forth, accompanied with the earnest prayer of him who penned them, that they may prove to others what, through GOD'S grace, they have been to him, an abiding source of spiritual peace and comfort.

June 1, 1835.

ORDER OF SCRIPTURE READING

FOR EVERY MORNING, EXCEPTING SUNDAYS, THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

OLD TESTAMENT.

	Chap.		Chap.		Chap.
Genesis	1	Joshua	10	Isaiah	30
	2		23		32
	3	Judges	4		37
	6		5		40
	22	1 Samuel	3		41
	39		12		43
	42		17		44
	43	2 Samuel	12		51
	45	1 Kings	13		53
Exodus	3		17		55
	5		18		59
	9		19		63
	10	2 Kings	2		65
	12		5		66
	14		18	Jeremiah	5
Numbers	22		19		22
	23	Proverbs	1		23
	24		2	Ezekiel	14
Deuteronomy	5		3		18
	6	Isaiah	1		20
	7		2	Daniel	3, 6
	8		5	Hosea	3, 14
	9		9	Zechariah	10
	16		11	Zephaniah	3
			25	Malachi	3, 4

NEW TESTAMENT.

	Chap.		Chap.		Chap.
Gosp. St. Matthew	28	Epistle to Galatians	6	Epistle to Titus	3
Mark	16	Ephesians	6	Philemon	1
Luke	24	Philippians	4	Hebrews	13
John	21	Colossians	4	James	5
Acts of Apostles	28	1 Thess.	5	1 Peter	5
Epistle to Romans	16	2 Thess.	3	2 Peter	3
1 Corinthians	16	1 Timothy	6	1 John	5
2 Corinthians	13	2 Timothy	4	2 and 3 John	2

SUITABLE THOUGHTS BEFORE ENGAGING IN READING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

Let me never open the Bible without a sincere desire and prayer to become a better Christian by reading it.

Let me read it with humility as the word of God, which he speaks unto me a transgressor, calling me to repentance and amendment.

Let me read it with gratitude, as teaching unto me a sinner the only way of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let me read it with devout attention, and think often of what I read, that I may show forth its influence in my words, temper and conduct.

Let me never close the holy volume without an inward prayer that I and all who hear me may receive with meekness "the engrafted word that is able to save our souls."

SUITABLE THOUGHT BEFORE ENGAGING IN PRAYER.

Our wants are daily; our temptations, hourly; our joys, transient; our fears, many; and our time, uncertain — all hangs, as it were, upon a thread. What security have we for life, or any thing in it, but the protection and grace of God? and what other way to secure that protection but the one he has himself appointed, that is, FREQUENT, SINCERE AND HUMBLE PRAYER THROUGH HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

God is a Spirit, and they who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. *John* iv. 24.

By Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are in earth. *Col.* i. 16.

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. *Psa.* xxxiii. 6.

The Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves. We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. *Psa.* c. 3.

In Him we live and move and have our being. *Acts* xvii. 28.

Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord. *Jer.* xxiii. 24.

Who is like unto thee, O Lord? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? *Exod.* xv. 11.

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts. *Isa.* vi. 3.

GOD is love. 1 *John* iv. 8.

Herein is love; not that we loved GOD, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 *John* iv. 10.

GOD so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life. *John* iii. 16.

GOD sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. *John* iii. 17.

He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. *Isa.* liii. 5.

He made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of GOD in him. 2 *Cor.* v. 21.

He gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. *Tit.* ii. 14.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto GOD,

through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Rom.* vi. 11.

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and put on the new man, which after GOD is created in righteousness and true holiness. *Ephes.* iv. 23–24.

Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great GOD and our Saviour JESUS CHRIST. *Tit.* ii. 13.

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of GOD, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. *Ephes.* iv. 30.

Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. *Heb.* iv. 1.

Glory be to the FATHER, and to the SON, and to the HOLY GHOST; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*First Sunday after Easter.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of all malice and wickedness, that we

may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth, through the merits of the same, thy Son JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

O MOST gracious GOD, who of thy tender love to mankind didst send thy blessed Son to be our Redeemer and Sanctifier, and as on this day to rise from the dead, leading captivity captive, raise us, we beseech thee, from the death and captivity of sin, that we may love and praise thee as we ought for this thine inestimable mercy. Open our eyes to a sense of our sinfulness, that we may feel our need of a Redeemer, and awaken our hearts to faith and gratitude, that we may be filled with joy and peace in believing. Enlighten our understandings, that we may comprehend thy revealed will: sanctify our affections, that we may love it: strengthen our resolutions, that we may obey it.

More especially on this day, devoted to thy service, we pray for thy enlightening and protecting SPIRIT. May He be to us an instructer and a guide, and fit us to join in the services

of thy holy Church with devout and thankful feelings. May the world be banished from our minds, and all its vanities and cares be put far from us while we praise thee, O GOD, with joyful lips, and pour out our hearts before thee in that house which is called by thy name, and through thy mediation, O blessed JESUS, who ever liveth to make intercession for us.

Within thy courts may we realize, by a living faith, the power and comforts of the Gospel preached unto us. May it so convince us of sin that we may listen with thankfulness to its offers of pardon, and make us so conscious of our own frailty, that we may receive with joy the promise of that Holy Comforter which thy Son JESUS CHRIST hath purchased for us, and which we pray may this day be poured in upon the hearts of all thy faithful people, to strengthen the feeble-minded, and to comfort those that mourn.

Sacrament Sunday.

Help us this day rightly to commemorate thy redeeming love. Sanctify our affections and confirm our faith. Restrain all wandering and sinful thoughts, that with thankful and well prepared hearts we may approach thy holy table; and receive

to our soul's comfort that blessed sacrament of atonement. Through faith in thee, O most compassionate Redeemer, may the symbols of thy sufferings be to us the sure pledges of an eternal salvation: may they comfort our sorrows and strengthen our weakness; blot out our sins and seal our justification.

[For our dear children on this day we supplicate thy guiding grace. In entering thy house may they remember in whose presence they appear; that unto thee the very thoughts of their hearts are open, and that from thee no secrets are hid. Teach them in the days of their youth to know thee their Creator, to love thee their Redeemer, and to submit their hearts unto thee, who art their only Guide and Sanctifier; that we their parents may rejoice in them with a holy joy, whether spared or taken from us, looking to the blessed hope of meeting again in heaven, through the merits of our one Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST.]

We pray also for such as enjoy not our spiritual privileges — for the Heathen, who know not thy name — for the blind in heart, who feel not their need of a Redeemer — and

for all those whom poverty and sickness keep away from thy courts.

May thy blessing rest on all endeavors for spreading abroad the light of thy glorious Gospel, and carrying its comforts into the abodes of ignorance and wretchedness; and may we feel that thy good providence hath made us debtors to aid those who go forth as laborers into the harvest. May their hands be strengthened to the task, until all the nations of the earth shall acknowledge thy name, and be gathered into one fold under one Shepherd, thy Son, our Saviour, JESUS CHRIST. All which we pray for his sake, and in his blessed name and words:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

SUNDAY EVENING.

THE fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. *Prov.* ix. 10.

Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do: but fear Him who, after he hath killed, hath power to cast into hell. *Luke* xii. 4, 5.

If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 *John* ii. 15.

This is the love of GOD, that we keep his commandments. 1 *John* v. 3.

If ye love me, keep my commandments. Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. *John* xv. 14.

Submit yourselves unto GOD. Humble yourselves in the sight of the LORD, and he shall lift you up. *James* iv. 7, 10.

My son, despise not thou the chastening of the LORD, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him; for whom the LORD loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. *Heb.* xii. 5, 6.

Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. 2 *Cor.* iv. 17.

The things which are seen are temporal; but the things that are not seen are eternal. 2 *Cor.* iv. 18.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto GOD. *Philip.* iv. 6.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Your heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him. *Luke* xi. 9, 13.

Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. *Ephes.* iv. 1–3.

One is your Master, even CHRIST, and all ye are brethren. *Matt.* xxiii. 8.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as GOD, for CHRIST'S sake, hath forgiven you. *Ephes.* iv. 31, 32.

GOD resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. *James* iv. 6.

Who maketh thee to differ from another, and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? 1 *Cor.* iv. 7.

He *then* that glorieth, let him glory in the LORD. 1 *Cor.* i. 31.

Learn of me, (saith our Saviour,) for I am meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest for your souls. *Matt.* xi. 29.

Behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me to give unto every man according to his works. *Rev.* xxii. 12.

For eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive the things which GOD hath prepared for them that love him. 1 *Cor.* ii. 9.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear GOD and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For GOD shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. *Eccles.* xii. 13, 14.

Glory be to the FATHER, and to the SON, and to the HOLY GHOST; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

[Hymn Sung.]

COLLECT—*St. Philip's and St. James's Day.*

O ALMIGHTY GOD, whom truly to know is everlasting life, grant us perfectly to know thy Son JESUS CHRIST to be the way, the truth and the life; that following in his blessed steps we may steadfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life, through the same, JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most gracious GOD, who art kind and compassionate even to the ungrateful and the sinner, look down in mercy upon us, thy weak and unworthy servants, who desire now to thank thee for the mercies of the past day, and to commit ourselves to thy watchful care through the coming night.

We return thee thanks that thou hast been pleased again to bring before us the appointed means of grace; that we have again heard thy blessed Word read and preached for the improvement of our minds and the purification of our hearts; grant that it may not have been heard in vain. For JESUS CHRIST's sake,

blot out the transgressions that would separate us from thee; and may the blessed SPIRIT, which he purchased for us, now plead our forgiveness. Suffer us not, O gracious LORD, to lose the blessings of this thy holy day through the infirmities of our sinful nature; nor by the coldness of our devotions, or the wandering of our worldly thoughts, to quench the SPIRIT that pleads within us.

Sacrament Sunday.

[More especially we pray that our unworthiness may not be remembered against us at the table of our Lord. O merciful Father, thou who so lovedst thy rebellious children as to give thine only-begotten Son to die for their sins, wilt thou not with him freely give us all things that are necessary for our salvation? Wilt thou suffer thy mercies to be unavailing through the frailty or unthankfulness of sinful man? We plead the all-perfect merits of thy Son JESUS CHRIST, and ask but for that living faith which relies on his all-sufficient atonement with a reasonable, religious and holy hope.]

We thank thee for all the mercies, both temporal and spiritual, which thou hast be-

stowed upon us through the whole course of our lives; for our being and reason; for the means of learning our duty, and the opportunities of performing it; for the light of thy truth; for the aids of thy Spirit, and for the blessed hope of a future life, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord.

May these solemn truths which have this day been brought before us, sink deep in our hearts, and influence all our conduct; may we become daily more pure in our thoughts, and more heavenly in our affections; may we live more for thee and less for the world; day by day may we advance in all spiritual wisdom, and as months and years roll over us, become more and more fitted for the Paradise of GOD; may each week of worldly duties be sanctified by its Sabbath of devotion; and may each Sabbath of holy rest bring us nearer unto thee, until, when it shall please thee to call us hence, we may enter on that heavenly Sabbath of eternal rest which thou prepared for thy children.

Strengthen, O LORD, these our feeble resolutions, that we may press toward the mark for the prize of our high calling; that we may

be raised above all the changes of this transitory life, and amid sin and sorrow, and trial and temptation, keep our hearts fixed on that blessed world which thou hast promised to them that love thee; where there is no sin and no sorrow, and where trial and temptation cannot enter.

In that world of peace grant us to be reunited to those whom we have here loved and lost, and there to meet all those who now are near and dear to us.

[That our dear children may there be found, grant that here they may be thy servants, walk in thy fear, and dwell in thy love; may holy angels encamp around them, to guard their bed, and direct their steps, and lead them through a life of virtue to a death of peace.]

Grant now unto us and them refreshing rest; may we lie down trusting in thy protection, and awake rejoicing in thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into

temptation ; But deliver us from evil : for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

NOTE.—While the Author is aware that as a rule of family devotion it cannot always be complied with, he is yet anxious to urge domestic psalmody as equally a duty and a pleasure, highly favorable to the excitement of devotional feelings, and much more easily attainable than its general neglect would seem to imply.

MONDAY MORNING.

[Chapter Read.]

COLLECT—*Second Sunday in Advent.*

BLESSED LORD, who hast caused all holy Scripture to be written for our learning, grant we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which thou hast given us in our Saviour JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

O ETERNAL GOD, by whose providence we are sustained in life, we thank thee for this renewal of thy mercies, and would begin the day thou hast added to our lives with the acknowledgment of thy goodness, and the devotion of ourselves to thy service. Thou hast watched over and preserved us through

the unseen perils of the night, thou alone canst guard us through all the seen and unseen dangers of the day.

Continue then unto us, we beseech thee, through the coming day and week, thy gracious protection; forsake us not amid the snares of our mortal pilgrimage; but be our Guide and Protector through all the changes and chances that await us in it; lead us in safety through its perils; support us under its trials, and comfort us under whatsoever suffering or sorrow thou shalt see fit to visit us with.

Make us contented in the station to which thou hast called us, and diligent and faithful in the performance of its duties. In our intercourse with the world, let us not be high-minded, but fear; and knowing the weakness of our hearts, let us keep back from temptation, and avoid every approach to sin.

Called by thy name, O blessed JESUS, may we walk worthy of that holy calling, and armed with our Christian hopes and privileges, fight the good fight of faith against all the enemies of our salvation. Amid family and friends may love and peace and thankful hearts be our portion, and may we show forth our

gratitude to thee for the unnumbered mercies we enjoy, by kindness and affection to all around us, more especially to those whom thou hast made dependent on our tenderness and love.

O Thou, who knowest the infirmity of our nature, leave us not, we beseech thee, to our own strength, but purify and confirm our hearts by the aids of thy Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled to live as becometh the Gospel of CHRIST; that our thoughts may in truth be holy, our words kind, and our tempers mild and forgiving, and that all we say or do may tend to peace and goodness.

In all the enjoyments of life let us remember with gratitude that thou art the giver; and in all its afflictions that they are sent by thy fatherly hand. In all the cares of life let us find calmness in religion; and in all its sorrows and trials let us seek for strength in prayer to thee, who loveth us even as a father loveth his own children. Let us ever walk as in thy presence, upright, pure and tranquil, looking with a holy indifference upon this vain world, and with a blessed hope and confidence in that which is to come, referring

all things to thy will and future judgment, and putting nothing in comparison with our hopes of glory.

That we may live the life of faith, grant us, we beseech thee, a firm and undoubting trust in thy word; may the Scriptures, written for our learning, make us wise unto salvation; may we daily read them, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; may they enable us so to pass through things temporal, as finally not to lose the things eternal. All which we pray, through JESUS CHRIST, thy Son, our Lord. *Amen.*

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

MONDAY EVENING.

From Psalms xxiii., xxxvii., and cxxi.

The Lord is my shepherd, therefore I can lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh even from the Lord, who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved, and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD himself is thy keeper; the LORD is thy defence upon thy right hand.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth for evermore.

Put thou thy trust in the LORD, and be doing good: dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

The LORD ordereth a good man's going, and maketh his way acceptable unto himself.

Though he fall he shall not be cast away, for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

The law of his GOD is in his heart, and his goings shall not slide.

I have been young and now am old; yet saw I never the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging their bread.

Keep innocency and take heed unto the thing that is right, for that shall bring a man peace at the last.

Glory be to the FATHER, and to the SON, and to the HOLY GHOST; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*Fourth Sunday after Easter.*

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant unto us thy servants, that we may love the thing that thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise, that so among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

MOST merciful Father, we thank thee for thy gracious protection through the day now past. Whatsoever in it we have endeavored to do aright, accept, we beseech thee, for our Saviour's sake. Whatsoever we have done amiss, for his sake blot out from against us; that we may now lie down to our rest in peace of mind, with a conscience void of offence toward thee and toward men.

We bless thy holy name for all the mercies this day continued unto us: for our being, our

reason, and all our faculties both of soul and body; for our health, [children,] and friends, and all thy bountiful provision for our earthly comfort; but above all, we praise thee for the offers of salvation, for the means of grace, and for the aids and comfort of thy Holy Spirit.

For these mercies teach us, O God, to be truly thankful: to receive in faith the Redeemer whom thou hast sent, to use with diligence the means of grace thou hast given, and to cherish in a pure heart the admonitions of our blessed Comforter; may we never grieve thy Holy Spirit by our sins, nor quench it by our impenitence; but so conform to its admonitions our hearts and lives, that it may guide us in danger, cheer us in affliction, and support us at the hour of death.

We commend, O Lord, all men to thy mercy, and our friends to thy protection; grant that those who are dear to us in love may be near to us in our Christian hopes, and that we may be here united in those bonds which death cannot sever. Grant unto us all what we need for our eternal welfare, that after the trials and sorrows of this mortal

pilgrimage, we may meet in joy through the merits of our common Redeemer, in those blessed mansions where there is no sorrow and no parting.

Watch over us, we beseech thee, through the coming night. Fill our minds with holy confidence in thy fatherly care, and may we both believe and feel that thou art ever present to guard and succor those who put their trust in thee. Grant unto us refreshing rest, that we may awake in the morning with renewed strength for the duties of the day; with a deeper sense of gratitude to thee, who art the giver of all our comforts, and with a warmer sympathy for those who are destitute of them. May we remember such in our prayers, and comfort them by our charity and kindness whenever thy good providence shall give us the ability; acknowledging them as thy children, O heavenly Father, and therefore our brethren, and equally with ourselves the subjects of thy redeeming love and heirs of eternal glory.

O Lord, hear us in these our prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake, in whose holy name and words we sum up our imperfect petitions.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

TUESDAY MORNING.

[Chapter Read.]

COLLECT—*First Sunday after Trinity.*

O GOD, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee, mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the Author and Giver of life, we kneel before thee this morning, the dependent creatures of thy hand, to praise thee for thy past mercies, and to pray for a continuance of them.

We bless thee for our being and reason, our bodily health and all our worldly comforts;

add to them, we beseech thee, that heavenly grace, which frail sinful creatures need, to make them real blessings; that our being may be devoted to thy service, our reason to learning thy will, our health to the performance of duty, and our worldly means to doing good in our generation to the sons and daughters of affliction.

Grant that we may enter upon the duties of this day with hearts filled with thankfulness, and minds resolved to walk in the path of thy commandments. Let us remember that we are ever in thy presence, and that our thoughts and most secret actions are in the light of thy countenance, and will one day be brought into judgment.

In the duties of life may we be found diligent and faithful, in our intercourse with the world honest and upright, in the enjoyment of its pleasures moderate and self-denying, and in the use of wealth, according to our means, charitable and liberal: let not the love of it gain dominion over us; let not our wishes for it be inordinate, nor our pursuit of it eager and anxious: give us grace that we may seek it but as the means

of usefulness, and employ it as a talent for which we must render an account, that amid the toils of the world, we may so live as to have our hearts and conversation in heaven.

Let the comforts of religion this day attend us. May it lighten the burthen of the cares of life, and console us under its sorrows; that when we feel this world to be vanity, thy blessed Gospel, O Lord, may cheer our hearts with an assured prospect of a happier and better world beyond the grave. Let us not build on earthly joys, nor rest upon this world as if it were our home. Let us seek for comfort in it where alone under thy blessing it may yet be found; in the conscientious performance of duty, in the thankful enjoyment of blessings bestowed, and in the daily exercise of those benevolent affections which thou hast given as a foretaste of the joys of heaven.

So long as thy bounties are continued to us, may we partake of them with moderation and thankfulness, and when called upon to resign them, may we do it with unmurmuring submission to thee, our heavenly Father, who lovest us and alone knowest what is best for us; and who hast promised to restore them

all to us a hundred fold, in those blessed mansions whither our Saviour CHRIST is gone to prepare a place for us.

Thither, O LORD, may our hearts continually ascend in meditation and prayer, that heaven may be to us even here as our home, and holy angels our companions, and the Spirit our guide, and GOD our friend, and thou, blessed Saviour, who hast purchased them all for us, become to our redeemed souls the way, the truth, and the life.

For his sake we beseech thee, blessed GOD, to hear and receive these our imperfect prayers.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

TUESDAY EVENING.

From Psalm ciii.

PRAISE the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thy sins; and healeth all thine infirmities;

Who saveth thy life from destruction; and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness.

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering and of great goodness.

He will not alway be chiding; neither keepeth He his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For look, how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth; so great is his mercy also toward those who fear him.

Look how wide also the east is from the west; so far hath he set our sins from us.

Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children, even so is the LORD merciful unto them that fear him.

For he knoweth whereof we are made; he remembereth that we are but dust.

The days of man are but as grass, for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.

For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the LORD endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him, and his righteousness upon children's children;

Even upon such as keep his covenant, and think upon his commandments to do them.

The LORD hath prepared his seat in heaven; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

O praise the LORD, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength, ye that fulfil his commandments, and hearken unto the voice of his words.

O praise the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye servants of his, that do his pleasure.

O speak good of the LORD, all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion. Praise thou the LORD, O my soul.

Glory be to the FATHER, and to the SON, and to the HOLY GHOST; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*Sunday after Ascension.*

O GOD, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son, JESUS CHRIST, with great triumph into thy kingdom in heaven, we beseech thee leave us not comfortless, but send to us thy HOLY GHOST to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour CHRIST is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee, and the HOLY GHOST, ever one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, whose loving kindness is over all thy works, we humble ourselves before thee this night in a penitent and thankful acknowledgment of thy mercies, and our own unworthiness.

Thou hast blessed us beyond our deservings; thou hast opened thine hand and filled us with good: but we have not glorified thee as we ought in thy bounties — in the blessings conferred upon us, we have not discerned thy hand, and in the enjoyment of the gift have forgotten thee, the gracious giver. We have

grown worldly where thou intendedst to make us thankful, and have become bound to earth by the very bands with which thy blessed Spirit hath sought to raise our hearts and affections to heaven.

For all these our numberless sins and infirmities, we now supplicate thy fatherly forgiveness, and more especially for whatsoever in us through the past day has grieved and offended thy HOLY SPIRIT. Blot it out from against us, gracious GOD; for our blessed Saviour's sake, suffer it not to rise up in future judgment; but grant us now to go to our rest with a conscience purified from dead works, and with hearts gladdened by a sense of thy redeeming love.

May we lie down with a calm and quiet mind, looking unto thee as to a reconciled Father, and enjoy refreshing sleep under the shadow of thy wing.

Or if thou shalt call us to sleepless hours, grant that our thoughts may be holy and comforting in the watches of the night. May we recount to our fearful souls all thy past mercies, and thus learn to trust and cast upon thee all anxious and disquieting cares.

[More especially we commend this night to thy watchful providence, our dear children. Give them holy resolutions, and assistance to perform them. Purify their hearts and sanctify their affections; that they may be thy children, and grow up in thy love and fear; that they may be a blessing and comfort to us their parents; united to us here in the bonds of a tender affection, and to be reunited hereafter in the courts of heaven, through faith in their and our redeemer, JESUS CHRIST.]

Children.

We pray also for every member of our household. Let thy peace rest upon our habitation, and the Son of peace ever dwell in it: and may thy blessing descend night and morning upon our family devotions, sanctifying every heart and strengthening every good resolution.

We pray also for the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted. Hear the sighs of those who mourn: comfort the bereaved: and lift up the light of thy countenance upon all who are in the valley of the shadow of death; that they may look unto thee and be saved. Guard us now, we beseech thee, through the coming night, and may our last

waking thoughts be of Him through whom alone our prayers are heard, our sins pardoned, and our imperfect services accepted and rewarded.

For JESUS CHRIST'S sake, we beseech thee, O gracious GOD, to hear, pardon, and accept us thy unworthy servants.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

[Chapter Read.]

COLLECT—*Second Sunday after Trinity.*

O LORD, who never failest to help and govern those whom thou dost bring up in thy steadfast fear and love, keep us, we beseech thee, under the protection of thy good providence, and make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy name, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, look down in mercy, we beseech thee, upon us thy unworthy servants, whom thou hast preserved through the dangers of the night, to a renewal of the cares of life, and who desire now to enter on its enjoyments and duties resting on thy support and trusting in thy mercy.

Give us grace, we beseech thee, to preserve in its enjoyments the gratitude of a thankful heart, and the moderation of a Christian mind; suffer them not to blind us to the instability of life, nor to withdraw our affections from thee, our GOD, and from the realities of a future world. Through the cares and sorrows of our mortal pilgrimage, enable us, O heavenly Father, to pass in a serene and tranquil spirit. In the performance of its duties, do thou strengthen our feeble nature with thy heavenly grace, that we may ever walk in the paths of innocence and virtue, and live above the temptations of a corrupt nature, and the allurements of a sinful world. In the labors of our vocation, grant that we may be found diligent and faithful, remembering always the shortness of life, and the account we must render at the bar of CHRIST, of the time and talents committed to our charge.

In the social intercourse of family and friends, may we be kindly affectioned one toward another, and mutually lighten the sorrows and cares of life by a cheerful and forgiving temper, and a gentle and helpful behavior; and do thou, who knowest the

weakness of our hearts, strengthen in us these holy affections. Make our prayers for them to be fervent, and our resolutions sincere, and grant us that aid without which human resolution can do nothing.

Forgive us all our past trespasses, renew us by repentance to a holier obedience, and give us grace to resist for the future those temptations by which we have hitherto been overcome.

In our worldly occupations, may we labor with diligence, and our labors be crowned with success; may our lives, if it be thy good pleasure to continue them, be prolonged to thy glory and our own salvation; [may we be permitted to see our children grow up in all virtue and usefulness;] and may we so live through the days allotted us, in a thankful enjoyment of thy mercies, and in a holy obedience to thy commands, that when called hence we may obey thy summons without sorrow, and without fear, and resign ourselves to thy blessed will, in a reasonable, religious and holy hope, in peace with thee our GOD, and in perfect charity with the world; all which we pray not for our own merits or deservings, but for the sake, and through the mediation

of thy Son our Saviour, JESUS CHRIST, in whose blessed name and words we sum up our imperfect petitions.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

From Psalms xlii. and lvii.

LIKE as the hart desireth the water brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O GOD.

My soul is athirst for GOD, yea even for the living GOD: when shall I come to appear before the presence of GOD?

My tears have been my meat day and night, while they say daily unto me, Where is now thy GOD?

Now, when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself: for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of GOD,

In the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among such as keep holy-day.

Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul; and why art thou so disquieted within me?

Put thy trust in GOD, for I will yet give him thanks for the help of his countenance.

The LORD hath granted his loving-kindness in the day time, and in the night season did I sing of him, and made my prayer unto the GOD of my life.

I will say unto the GOD of my strength, Why hast thou forsaken me? Why go I thus heavily, while the enemy oppresseth me?

Namely, while they say daily unto me, Where is now thy GOD?

Why art thou so vexed, O my soul; and why art thou so disquieted within me?

O put thy trust in GOD; for I will yet thank him, who is the help of my countenance, and my GOD.

Lift up thyself, O GOD, above the heavens, and thy glory above all the earth.

My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

Awake up, my glory; awake, lute and harp: I myself will awake right early.

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations.

For the greatness of thy mercy reacheth unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.

Set up thyself, O God, above the heavens; and thy glory above all the earth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Collect—*Fourth Sunday after Trinity.*

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that thou, being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things that are eternal:

grant this, O heavenly Father, for JESUS CHRIST's sake, our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting GOD; we come before thee in a deep sense of our own unworthiness, humbly beseeching thee to pardon our manifold offences in thought, word, and deed; and to accept these our imperfect prayers, through the merits of thy Son, our Saviour, JESUS CHRIST.

Vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to enlighten our understanding with true wisdom, that we may know thee the only GOD, and JESUS CHRIST, whom thou hast sent: vouchsafe to purify them by thy blessed Spirit, that we may love thee with unfeigned sincerity, and obey thee with a willing mind: give us grace, that we may so thoroughly search our hearts, and root out from them every evil imagination, that they may become fit temples for the abode of thy blessed Spirit, daily to aid and strengthen us in the course of virtuous living.

To thy throne of mercy, O blessed LORD GOD, we look up with filial confidence. Thou art our Father, and by thee have we been holden up ever since we were born: thou art our Redeemer, and hast given thine only Son to die for our offences: thou art our Sanctifier, and hast sent thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Look down, then, in mercy on us thy weak and erring children, on the creatures of thy hand, whom thy power hath created, and thy mercy saved: pardon all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and behold with compassion our infirmities, that we may be strengthened to love, serve, and obey thee as we ought, all the days of our lives. Free us, we beseech thee, from all servile fear; that we may find our happiness in doing our duty; and from all self-confidence, that we may never be indolent in the work of our salvation.

Wean us from the world's unsatisfying pleasures, that our hearts may be raised to seek those at thy right hand. In all the events of life may we look unto thee as the Almighty Ruler and Allwise Governor of the world, who alone knowest what is best for

the sons of men, and ever choosest what is best to work out in a humble spirit its eternal good.

Sanctify, then, O LORD, all our trials and sorrows unto us; that we may improve and amend from thy fatherly correction: under thy righteous judgments may we humble ourselves without fear, and submit without murmuring, and mourn without dejection: may we experience in them a father's love, guiding and guarding us through the dangers of a too prosperous condition; and fitting us by the discipline of sorrow for a world of purity and peace.

May the blessed truths of salvation sink deep in our hearts; that our latest thoughts when we sleep, and our earliest when we awake, may be of thee and thy mercy; trusting in thy providence and resigned to thy will, and with our hopes fixed on that rest that still remaineth for the people of GOD.

Hear us, we beseech thee, in these our prayers, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST, thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on

earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

THURSDAY MORNING.

[Chapter Read.]

COLLECT—*Seventh Sunday after Trinity.*

LORD of all power and might, who art the Author and Giver of all good things; graft in our hearts the love of thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

O ALMIGHTY and merciful GOD, whom to fear is wisdom, and on whom to rely is perfect safety; fill our hearts with love and gratitude for this renewal of thy mercies, and enable us to begin the day which thou hast added to our lives with a deeper sense of trust in thy providence, and firmer resolutions of obedience to thy will.

We humble ourselves before thy supreme majesty in veneration and awe: in thy presence we feel our weakness, we acknowledge our unworthiness: to thy power we humbly submit: thy mercy we fervently adore: on thy wisdom and goodness we firmly and cheerfully rest, to lead us in safety through this world of probation, in which thou, our Creator, hast seen fit to place us.

In this transitory scene, where so much is illusion, guard from error both our understandings and our hearts: fill our minds with all useful truth, and above all, with that which maketh wise unto salvation: instil into them all pure and benevolent affections, that we may become fitted, even while upon earth, for the blessed abodes of heaven: regard with compassion our erring judgments: impute not our doubts to indifference, nor our slowness of belief to hardness of heart; but send thy Holy Spirit to aid and quicken our cold devotions; and accept, for our blessed Saviour's sake, even the sigh of penitence, and the imperfect effort at obedience.

Guide us this day through the scenes of duty or trial to which we may be called;

that in all things we may be holy, pure, and undefiled. Give us grace to overcome every temptation that would lead us aside from the path of thy commandments; suffer us not to fall into indolent or worldly living, but ever guard our virtue by a diligent and useful occupation of time, and strengthen it by prayer and watchfulness.

May all our temporal blessings be sanctified to us; may they be employed to the good of others, and to our own salvation: may we be just and upright in all our dealings, sober and temperate in all our enjoyments; mild, charitable, and forgiving in all our behavior. May we neglect no opportunity of doing good; but remembering the account we must render, be diligent and watchful of our passing days.

In our family intercourse, may we show forth thy spirit, O blessed JESUS, and learn of thee to be meek and humble of heart. May we bear each other's burthens in the spirit of Christian charity; and order all our words and actions to harmony and love.

Conduct us safely through the dangers of the day, and grant that we meet again in

peace at our evening devotions; with consciences void of offence, and hearts prepared for heaven. All which we pray for our blessed Saviour's sake, who hath left us an example, that we should follow in his steps. *Amen.*

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

THURSDAY EVENING.

From Psalms li. xix. and cxxxix.

HAVE mercy upon me, O GOD, after thy great goodness: according to the multitude of thy mercies, do away mine offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.

Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

O, give me the comfort of thy help again, and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall show thy praise. For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee; but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou shalt not despise.

Who can tell how oft he offendeth? O cleanse thou me from my secret faults.

Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over me.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be always acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

How dear are thy counsels unto me, O GOD; oh! how great is the sum of them.

If I tell them, they are more in number than the sand. When I awake up, I am present with thee.

Try me, O GOD, and seek the ground of my heart; prove me, and examine my thoughts.

Look well if there be any way of wickedness in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Glory be to the FATHER, and to the SON, and to the HOLY GHOST; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*Second Sunday after Easter.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; give us grace, that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavor ourselves to follow the blessed

steps of his most holy life, through the same JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

O ALMIGHTY GOD and merciful Father, who hearest willingly the prayers of them who call faithfully upon thee, receive the supplications which we now offer, in the name and through the mediation of thy Son, our Saviour, JESUS CHRIST.

We come before thee in thankfulness for all thy mercies, both temporal and spiritual: we bless thy holy name for thy preservation of us from the beginning of our lives to the present day, and for the unnumbered blessings thou hast never ceased to bestow upon us: may we often call to mind how many of our fellow-creatures have been taken while we have been spared; how many visited with affliction while we have been blest with health and peace; how many sunk in poverty while we have been prosperous and happy.

Blessed be thy name for these thy undeserved mercies. O suffer not our hearts to be

ungrateful in the enjoyment of them, but crown all thy worldly mercies by giving us such a thankful and pious spirit, as may lift our hearts from earth, and prepare us to dwell in heaven.

But, above all, we bless thee for thy spiritual gifts. How many of our fellow-sinners have been left in ignorance while we were instructed to know, and love, and serve thee: how many left to wander without a guide, while we have been brought into thy fold, and rescued from destruction, through the knowledge of our Lord JESUS CHRIST.

Give us grace, O LORD, to show forth in our lives our gratitude for these inestimable privileges: may we make the Gospel to be our daily guide and instructer: may we use in sincerity the means of grace which thou hast provided in thy holy Church, and seek to grow daily more and more conformed to thy blessed will.

Take from us all pride, ignorance, and hardness of heart, that we may know and feel our own unworthiness, and make us so truly sensible of the deadly evil of sin, that we may rightly estimate, and gladly receive the offers of redemption, in this our day of salvation.

Pardon all the sins and errors of the day now past, and for thy dear Son's sake, be not extreme to mark against us what has been done amiss: as thou hast given us time, so we beseech thee, give us grace for repentance, and grant us now peace of mind and a quiet conscience when we retire to rest.

To thy gracious protection this night we commend ourselves, and all those who are near and dear to us.

Children. [More especially we pray for our beloved children: let holy angels guard their bed, and drive far from them every danger, both of soul and body; that their sleep may be sweet, and their waking thoughts holy and happy; and that with the morning beam, the Sun of Righteousness may also arise upon their hearts, to purify their young affections, and to guide their feet into the way of peace.]

On the sick and afflicted look down, we beseech thee, in mercy: comfort those that mourn: strengthen the feeble-minded, and raise up the fallen: guide the doubting, reclaim the vicious, and awaken the impenitent; that so there may be no erring or sorrowing crea-

ture who doth not feel thy tenderness and compassion.

Hear us, we beseech thee, gracious GOD, for his sake, who laid down his life a ransom for the sons of men, our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

FRIDAY MORNING.

[Chapter Read.]

COLLECT—*First Sunday after Trinity.*

O GOD, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee, mercifully accept our prayers; and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace; that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

O GOD, the Creator and Father of all mankind, to whom all things both in heaven and earth do bow down and obey, grant that we, thy feeble and sinful creatures, may rightly esteem, and worthily magnify thy holy name: with a true faith, and a holy confidence, may we now approach thy mercy seat, and offer up

acceptable prayers, through the mediation of thy Son JESUS CHRIST.

We thank thee, that thou hast again restored us to light and life, and spared us to the enjoyments and duties of another day: let not this day thou hast added to our lives, be lost in indolence, or wasted in folly, or perverted to vice; but give us grace so to use each passing hour, that it may leave behind it no vain regrets.

May we enter upon its duties with hearts resolved to walk in the path of thy commandments; looking to thy will as our guide, to thy favor as our all sufficient reward, and to thy life, O blessed JESUS, as our perfect and moving example.

Give us the wisdom to remember our own frailty, that we fall not through pride; and that living faith which draws down succor from thy right hand. Root out from our hearts all evil passion, and vain affection, and whatever else might lead us into sin; and plant in their stead that love of purity and peace which is of the spirit of the Gospel.

Suffer us not to fall this day into any trial beyond our strength: let not health make us

forgetful of our mortality, nor prosperity of our dependence on thy providence: let neither allurement betray us, nor sudden temptation surprise us into sin; nor any vain shows of a deceitful world be permitted to abuse our understandings, or corrupt our hearts.

Let us not seek too eagerly the riches or pleasures of life, or be too much moved with its troubles and disappointments. In all our sorrows and temptations, be thou, O LORD, our guide and helper; that under thy assisting and restraining grace, we may walk in safety, and rest in peace; and when the number of our days are accomplished, be made partakers of those heavenly joys, which sorrow never darkens, and where temptation never enters.

That in that blessed world we may all meet, give us grace now to make each day that passes over us a preparation for it. May we seek such things as please thee, resist whatever would offend thee, and find our chief delight in those things which draw our souls toward thee, and fit them for the enjoyment of thy presence in heaven.

Children. [May thy guardian care watch more especially over our dear children; making them loving and obedient to us their parents, tender affectioned toward each other, and kind and just to all; diligent in the improvement of time, moderate in the enjoyment of pleasure, and watchful against temptation; that so they may ever be thy servants and thy children, and heirs, through hope, of thine everlasting inheritance.]

All which we pray for his sake, who hath left us an example that we should follow in his blessed steps, thy Son our Saviour, JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

FRIDAY EVENING.

From Psalms xxxii. and xci.

BLESSED is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven, and whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth no sin, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

I will acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

I said, I will confess my sins unto the LORD; and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found; but in the great water floods they shall not come nigh him.

Thou art a place to hide me in; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go: and I will guide thee with mine eye.

Great plagues remain for the ungodly; but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD, mercy embraceth him on every side.

Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

I will say unto the LORD, Thou art my hope and my strong hold; my GOD, in him will I trust.

For he shall deliver me from the snare of the hunter, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers: his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

For thou, LORD, art my hope; thou hast set thine house of defence very high.

There shall no evil happen unto thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee in their hands, that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder: and the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him up because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will hear him: yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honor.

With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

Glory be to the FATHER, and to the SON, and to the HOLY GHOST; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*Second Sunday in Lent.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer.

O Lord God, who art a tower of strength to those who put their trust in thee, we render thanks to thee for thy continued gracious protection, and for all the daily bounties of thy providence; above all, we thank thee for thy spiritual care and love; that thou hast this day guarded us from evil, and strengthened us to walk with willing, though faltering steps, in the path of duty and obedience.

O be thus to us evermore, a shield and buckler against the darts of the enemy; and fulfil unto us, who have chosen thee as our house of defence, all the gracious promises which of old were made unto thy faithful servants. May we realize, in thy redeeming love, the visions of glory which prophets and kings saw afar off; and amid sorrow and temptation, still find that thou hast given thine angels charge over us; and that we are ever compassed about with songs of deliverance.

In this conviction of holy faith, we now desire to acknowledge the mercies of the past day; and in this confidence to lie down to our nightly rest.

Bless unto us, we beseech thee, O heavenly Father, all the events of life: may we read in them thy wisdom and love: whatever trial meets us, may it strengthen our trust in thee; whatever sorrow, may it wean us from the world; whatever joy, may it fill our hearts with praise; and in whatever we shall offend thee, may even that be sanctified to our soul's health — renewing us to a deeper repentance, and casting us more entirely on thy Spirit to strengthen us, and thy redeeming love to pardon and to save us.

Forgive, we beseech thee, whatever we have this day done amiss; and for our blessed Saviour's sake, blot out the remembrance of it from thy book of judgment. Forgive whatever sinful pride or vanity we have indulged, whatever hasty words we have spoken, whatever unkind acts we have done, and whatever kindness we have failed to do toward the sick, the poor, or the unfortunate, or any others whom thou hast made dependent on our aid or our affection.

Increase in us, we beseech thee, all Christian graces: may we forgive, as we hope to be forgiven: may we love others, even as

CHRIST hath loved us; not weighing their merits, but pardoning their offences; and in the enjoyment of our worldly comforts may we deny ourselves, that we may have to give to him that needeth.

Take from us all anxious care as to our temporal concerns: may we trust thee to make all things work together for our final good; and as we trust, so may we also obey thee, and walk daily and diligently in the path of duty.

Fit us, we pray thee, for every task to which thou shalt call us: in prosperity make us humble, and in adversity patient; and in every station give us grace that we may frame our lives to peace and love with those around us; as being partakers of the same faith, and heirs of the same blessed hope.

Above all, sanctify with Christian peace our domestic circle, and receive now our united prayers, for the sake of our common Saviour, JESUS CHRIST, thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive

those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

SATURDAY MORNING.

[Chapter Read.]

COLLECT—*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany.*

O GOD, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; grant unto us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

LORD of all power and might, in whose hands are the wills and affections of sinful men, we kneel before thee this morning in humble and thankful supplication.

As thou hast cheered our eyes with the light of another day, so we beseech thee to

gladden our souls with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness: may it arise to us with healing upon its wings, and chase from our dull cold hearts all mists of error, and clouds of darkness that would hide thee from us.

May that blessed light enable us to see and understand all the wonderful things of thy law; to acknowledge thy justice, to adore thy mercy, and to love and venerate all thine infinite perfections.

Above all, may it enable us to realize thy boundless love in the redemption of sinful man; and apply to our souls' health the blessed hopes and promises of the Gospel: as sinful beings, may we receive with gratitude its offers of pardon; and as frail and feeble creatures, embrace with joy its promise of a spiritual comforter.

Grant, we beseech thee, O God, thou who knowest whereof we are made, that we may this day be strengthened by thy Holy Spirit, that it may dwell in our hearts by faith, and enable us to run with joy the race that is set before us. If we be in doubt, may it guide us into the path of duty; if in temptation, may it fortify all good resolutions; in sorrow,

may it comfort us with a sense of thy love; and amid the snares of a deceitful world, may it open our eyes to discern all its vanity and worthlessness.

Amid all its engagements may our hearts be fixed on the attainment of thy favor: may neither love of ease, nor any other temptation withhold us from devoting our lives heartily to thy service, nor any false fear ever make us ashamed of acknowledging ourselves disciples of the blessed JESUS.

May we show forth in our lives the influence of the faith we profess: may our words be sincere, our actions upright, and our tempers mild and forgiving: may we guard our hearts, bridle our tongues, and govern our tempers: may we forgive others their trespasses, and watch against our own; and may we be steadfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the LORD, looking for his glorious appearing, and the day of final judgment; trusting in that day to be accepted, not for our own merits or deservings, for we are sinful dust and ashes, but for the sake, and through the mediation of JESUS CHRIST, thy Son our Lord, who died that we might

live, and who now ever liveth to make intercession for those who come unto thee through him.

In his blessed name and words, we sum up our imperfect petitions.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those whe trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

SATURDAY EVENING.

From Psalms xxxix. and xc.

LORD, let me know my end, and the number of my days, that I may be satisfied how long I have to live.

Behold, thou hast made mine age as it were a span long; and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee; and verily every man living is altogether vanity.

For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain: he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.

And now, LORD, what is my hope? truly my hope is even in thee.

Deliver me from all mine offences; and make me not a rebuke unto the foolish.

When thou with rebukes dost chasten man for sin, thou makest his beauty to consume away, like as it were a moth fretting a garment: every man therefore is but vanity.

Hear my prayer, O LORD, and consider my calling: hold not thy peace at my tears:

For I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength, before I go hence, and be no more seen.

Lord, thou hast been our refuge from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

Thou turnest man to destruction; again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday, seeing that is past as a watch in the night.

The days of our age are threescore years and ten; and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years, yet is their strength then but labor and sorrow; so soon passeth it away and we are gone.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*First Sunday in Advent.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son JESUS CHRIST came to visit us, in great humility, that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty, to judge both the quick and dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the HOLY GHOST, now and ever. *Amen.*

PRAYER.

O ETERNAL GOD, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered, look down, we beseech thee, in mercy upon us, thy frail, sinful, and dying creatures.

Thou hast preserved us through the dangers of another week, and brought us so much nearer to the grave: while then our hearts are filled with gratitude, let them also be awakened to repentance; let us bewail our

transgressions, and acknowledge our offences, while thou givest us time and grace to repent and amend; that death may not surprise us unawares, nor we be summoned to judgment with a conscience burthened with unrepented sin.

Grant us now, we beseech thee, while in life and health, that sincere and earnest sorrow to which thou hast offered forgiveness, and that living faith which thou hast promised to accept, through the merits of our Redeemer, JESUS CHRIST. May we think often of our own mortality, and may that thought make us not sad but serious; may it wean us from the unsatisfying pleasures of the world, and fill us with the hopes and prospect of a better life to come; may the remembrance of death and judgment make us diligent in every good work; that with pure hearts and minds, we may be prepared whensoever called on, through thy merits, O blessed LORD, to enter upon those heavenly joys that never fade.

May it please thee to give us, under all the disappointments of life, an entire resignation to thy blessed will, and to sanctify unto us all our afflictions: may pains of body and disqui

etude of mind be turned to our souls' health when disease overtakes us. Do thou, O LORD, make all our bed in our sickness; save us then from impatience and repining, from dejection of spirit and distrust of thy mercy; and in confidence of the blessed atonement made for us, raise us, we beseech thee, above all fear of death, and servile dread of judgment: may the sense of our weakness add strength to our faith, and seriousness to our repentance; so, that departing with hearts filled with ardent desires after heaven, we may be received into that blessed company of angels, and the spirits of the just made perfect; to serve thee, our GOD and Saviour, through the endless ages of eternity.

Nor may we there fail to meet all those whom on earth we have loved; those who have gone before us, and those whom we may leave behind.

Children. [More especially we pray that no child of our love be there wanting; and that we may be again gathered together, we beseech thee now to turn to heaven their young affections; to guard their innocence, and guide their uninstructed steps,

that they may walk all the days of their life in the ways of true pleasantness, and in the paths of spiritual peace. Fill their souls and ours this night with joy and peace in believing, with a comforting sense and assurance of our reconciliation unto thee; that whether life or death be our portion, we may fear no evil, but lie down in peace, knowing that there remaineth a rest for the people of GOD; and that when we awake up after thy likeness, we shall be satisfied with it.]

Till then be thou our light and defence, our guide and our guard, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, and the love of GOD, and the fellowship of the HOLY GHOST, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

SPECIAL PRAYERS.

SPECIAL COLLECTS.

COLLECT—*Christmas-day.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us thy only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy HOLY SPIRIT, through the same our Lord JESUS CHRIST, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same SPIRIT, ever one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*Ash-Wednesday.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting GOD, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of

thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect—*Good Friday.*

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross, who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all estates of men in thy holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may truly and godly serve thee, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

O merciful God, who hast made all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made,

nor desirest the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live; have mercy upon all Jews, Turks, Infidels, and Heretics; and take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy word; and so fetch them home, blessed LORD, to thy flock, that they may be saved among the remnant of the true Israelites, and be made one fold under one Shepherd, JESUS CHRIST our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the HOLY SPIRIT, one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*Easter Sunday.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who through thine only begotten Son JESUS CHRIST hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life; we humbly beseech thee, that as, by thy special grace preventing us, thou dost put into our minds good desires; so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the HOLY GHOST, ever one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*Trinity Sunday.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting GOD, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal TRINITY, and in the power of the divine Majesty to worship the Unity; we beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith, and evermore defend us from all adversities, who livest and reignest, one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

COLLECT—*Whitsunday.*

O GOD, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy HOLY SPIRIT; grant us by the same SPIRIT to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort, through the merits of CHRIST JESUS our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same SPIRIT, one GOD, world without end. *Amen.*

FOR GRACE IN TIME OF TROUBLE.

O FATHER of mercies and GOD of all comfort, our only help in time of need, and sure refuge against all evil, sanctify, we beseech thee, every sorrow and every calamity with which, in mercy, thou shalt see fit to visit us. May all thy dispensations lead to our improvement in virtue and true religion: may they bring us to a deeper repentance for the errors of our past lives: may they strengthen our reliance in thy spiritual mercies, and our faith in thy blessed promises; and so teach us to number our days, that we may seriously apply our hearts unto wisdom — even to that holy and heavenly wisdom, which not only brings with it peace and happiness in this mortal life, but finally secures everlasting joy in that which is to come, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.* Sept. 6, 18—

AGAINST IMPENDING CALAMITY

O GRACIOUS GOD, thou hast said that thou dost not willingly afflict the children of men, look down then in mercy, we beseech thee, on

us thy trembling and fearful servants. Remove from us the evil which fills our hearts with apprehension: save us from the flood of sorrow that threatens to overwhelm us: renew to us our broken peace of mind, and make our hearts again to rejoice with gladness, amid the blessings with which thou hast surrounded us, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.*

August 20, 18—

UNDER BEREAVEMENT.

O HEAVENLY Father, in all our past sorrows thy mercies have refreshed our souls; vouchsafe now to crown them all, in our present bereavement, by the spirit of resignation to thy blessed will: give unto us submissive hearts, make them more devoted to thy service, and more worthy of thy pardoning goodness; and grant that all our trials may but bring us nearer unto thee, and lead us in deeper humility and penitence, to seek thy favor, through JESUS CHRIST our Mediator and Redeemer; that, after this passing scene is over, we may be reunited to all whom we have here loved and lost, in unchanging, everlasting happiness; and this we pray, through

the atonement and intercession of Him who loved us, and gave himself for us, thy Son our Saviour JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

May 2, 18—

ON THE BIRTH-DAY OF A CHILD.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast commanded us to train up our children in thy love and fear, enable us, we beseech thee, to perform that duty to thy glory, and their eternal salvation; sanctify their youthful affections; fill their tender hearts with gratitude to thee, and affectionate kindness to each other; that, amid all the changes and chances of life, their trust may be in thy mercy, and their comfort in mutual affection. More especially we pray for thy blessing on this our dear child, who, on this day, adds to the number of *her* years. May this day of *her* birth be to *her* one of spiritual mercies: may *she* learn in youth to devote *herself* to thee, *her* GOD and Saviour, and so to number *her* days, that *she* may apply *her* heart unto wisdom. Enlighten *her* understanding, that *she* may comprehend thy will: purify *her* affections, that *she* may love

it, and strengthen *her* resolutions, that *she* may obey it: may *she* live to be to us *her* parents, a blessing in our declining years, and when parted here, may we meet again in that world of peace, where there is no sorrow and no parting, through JESUS CHRIST our Saviour. *Amen.* Aug. 11, 18—

ON NEW-YEAR'S DAY.

ALMIGHTY and everliving GOD, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered, we thank thee that thou hast been pleased to preserve our lives to the beginning of another year: we are in thy hand, and every day is thy gift: may we remember, too, that we are thy servants, and that for every day we must render an account. In entering upon a new year, blot out for our Saviour's sake, the transgressions of the past; that with renewed hearts and minds, we may consecrate it unto thee: as we grow in age, may we grow in grace, and become fitted for death, as day by day we approach it: as our time shortens, may we become more diligent

and careful of it; and may its increasing uncertainty make us more and more watchful to be found in the path of duty: may the coming year be blest to us, and to those dearest to us: may thy good providence ever be our guard, and thy blessed will our guide: may thy Spirit cheer us, thy mercy pardon us, and thy redeeming love be our rock and our salvation; that whatever in it be our portion, we may fear no evil; but that our lives may be holy, and our deaths peaceful, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.* Jan. 1, 18—

ON RESTORATION TO HEALTH OF ANY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

MOST merciful Father, thou hast spared us in love from the trial which seemed to await us; thou hast restored to health one near and dear to us, and not permitted the destroyer to break in upon our peace. For this new instance of thy tender love, we desire now to praise and bless thy holy name: we prostrate ourselves before thee in grateful adoration: we offer up to thee the incense of thankful souls: we bring unto thee the only

return that we, thy poor dependent creatures can make—hearts overflowing with gratitude, and penetrated by a deep sense of our own unworthiness; sanctified, too, we trust, by the sincere desire and prayer, that our future lives may be conformed more and more to thy holy will. Receive these our praises; hear this our prayer; turn our gratitude into obedience, and love for *our child* into love for thee, who hast spared *him* to us. Grant this for JESUS CHRIST'S sake, thy Son our Lord. *Amen.* March 30, 18—

FOR ONE ABSENT ON A JOURNEY.

O ETERNAL and ever present GOD, thou who art about our path, and about our bed; we beseech thee to be also an ever present guard to our dear *son* now absent from us, and exposed to the perils of travel: do thou be to *him* more than a father's care, or a mother's love, in shielding *him* from all evil both of soul and body; and restore *him* to us in renewed health and safety, with a grateful sense of thy mercy, through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.* Nov. 20, 18—

ON SETTING OUT UPON A JOURNEY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose providence we are preserved day by day from the innumerable dangers which every moment surround us; be thou our guard, we beseech thee, in the journey upon which we are now entering: may it be blest to us in health, and all rational enjoyment: may the scenes of nature through which we pass, awaken our hearts to love and praise; and fill them with joyful anticipations of the beauty of that world which sin has never defaced: may all the social pleasures we meet with be regulated by prudence, and hallowed by a pious spirit: watch over those dear to us, whom we leave behind: guard us who go, in all our wanderings, and grant that we may return to our home confirmed in health, cheered in spirit, and strengthened to run with renewed ardor the course of duty to which we are called. Grant this for JESUS CHRIST'S sake, thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

July 20, 18—

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O God, whose grace is ever ready to aid, and whose mercy to pardon, our natural infirmities, direct and assist me, thy weak and sinful servant, in the duties and services of this holy day. Grant me to feel deeply the responsibility of my sacred office. In the services of the sanctuary, save me from all wandering thoughts, that by the sincerity of my own devotions, I may awaken prayer and praise in the hearts of those who hear me. In the pulpit, take from me all pride and vanity of spirit: may my thoughts be fervent, and my words simple: may my only aim be the advancement of thy kingdom, and the eternal welfare of those committed to my charge; and grant, that wherever I go, and whatever I do, I may at all times so labor, so pray, and so teach, that at the great day of account I may, through thy grace, have somewhat to show in return for the many opportunities thou

hast conferred upon me, and whatever talents thou hast committed to my charge. While I exhort others, suffer not that I myself become a cast-away; but save me, for His sake whom I preach, and through whom I trust that my prayers will be heard, and my imperfect labors accepted and rewarded. Grant this, O GOD, for CHRIST'S sake. *Amen.*

Nov. 1, 18—

SUNDAY EVENING.

O GRACIOUS GOD, I humbly kneel before thee in gratitude for the spiritual mercies of the past day, and in sorrow and shame for my negligent and unthankful reception of them: yet do I bless thy holy name that thou hast enabled me again to preach unto my people the words of eternal life: I praise thee for every instance of that word being blest unto them, through my means: I pray thee, through my Saviour's merits, that my own sinful negligences may be pardoned and blotted out from against me; and I implore thee that they be not visited upon those who, through my fault, have failed of the good thou gavest into my hand to do unto them: pardon the shepherd, I beseech

thee, for his very flock's sake, and pardon the flock for the sake of Him who gave his life for them; that when summoned from this wilderness of sin and sorrow, we may all be gathered into one fold, and under one shepherd, thy Son our Saviour JESUS CHRIST.

More especially I pray for thy blessing this night on those who are most near and dear unto me: may I be in truth to my wife and children, a guide, an instructer, and a comforter: may our domestic altar be blessed, as it hath this day been, with health and peace; and may our daily united prayers ever ascend to thy presence, hallowed by family affection, and sanctified by Christian hopes; that so, when parted here, we may meet again in those blessed mansions, where there is no sorrow and no parting, through the merits of our common Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.* March 10, 18—

MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast safely brought me to the beginning of another six days' labor, look down with mercy upon me in the toils

and studies to which I am called: enlighten my understanding to comprehend thy will: strengthen my abilities to display it to the conviction of others; and grant that whatever faculties thou hast bestowed I may employ them with sincerity and diligence in the discharge of my duty.

O gracious GOD, grant me success in the labors of my ministry; make me the means of converting sinners from the error of their ways; and that I may persuade others, grant me to be myself deeply persuaded of the reality and value of the truths I teach: may they sink deep in my mind, and shine forth in my conduct; that so, out of the fulness of my heart I may speak, and live an example of the precepts I would enforce.

Impress upon me such a conviction of the shortness and uncertainty of life, that I may be careful and diligent of my passing days; and grant, that whatever time is devoted with an honest and sincere desire to learn and teach thy will, may not be without thy blessing either in this world or in the next. Grant this for His sake whose holy name I

bear, and whose I would fain be, my Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

Feb. 20, 18–

SATURDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, from whom cometh the ability to repent of wrong, as well as the power to do right; grant me grace honestly to review, and seriously to repent of all my negligences and offences during the past week: suffer them not to fade from my mind before they have wrought in me that salutary sorrow which worketh amendment, and then blot them out from against me, through the merits of thy blessed Son, and give peace to my accusing conscience. Save me alike from vain self-confidence, and a sinful distrust of thy mercy: let no worldly measures of judgment blind me to a sense of my own sinfulness, nor any sense of my own sinfulness make me despair of thy pardoning mercy: visit not upon those committed to my charge, the punishment of my neglect; but wherever I have failed to improve the opportunities of good thou hast put within my power, may

thy grace supply what I have left undone; and do thou gather those wandering sheep into thy fold, which, through indolence or worldly fear, thy unworthy servant would have left to wander in the mazes of sin.

Sanctify unto me all the dispensations of thy providence: may daily mercies fill my heart with gratitude, and daily trials be the means of strengthening me in Christian duty; and may each succeeding week, as it passes over me, find me advancing in the work of salvation, through the aids of thy Spirit, and the intercession of thy blessed Son, to whom, with thee and the HOLY GHOST, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

Sept. 8, 18—

BEFORE COMPOSING A SERMON.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the fountain of all wisdom, look down, I beseech thee, in mercy, on me, thy weak and unworthy servant. In thy good providence, thou hast called me to the duty of instructing others in the way of Christian truth: aid me with thy grace in the performance of this duty: enlighten my understanding to comprehend thy will, and open my heart to

receive it: strengthen with thy grace every natural faculty of my mind, and enlarge and sanctify all attainments in human knowledge; that so I may display the doctrines of the Gospel, in all their purity and strength, untainted by error, unbiassed by prejudice, and undebased by fear. Grant, that in sincerity and singleness of heart, I may preach them to the confirming of my own and others' faith; to the leading of myself and them to a life of holy obedience, to a death of Christian hope, and to an entrance into heaven, through the merits of our common Redeemer, JESUS CHRIST our Lord. *Amen.* Dec. 23, 18—

PRAYER AGAINST AN IMPATIENT TEMPER.

O GOD, who knowest both my weakness and my trials, strengthen me by thy grace, to meet with calmness, and bear with cheerfulness, the petty vexations of life, to which, amid all my enjoyments, natural infirmity exposes me; suffer them not to break in upon the peace of a Christian temper, nor to diminish aught in the kindness and love I owe to all around me; more especially to the children of

my love, and the dear wife of my bosom: grant me grace to imitate her good example, and like her, forgetful of self, to do all for the welfare and happiness of others: raise my heart and affections above these passing trifles: make me to feel that life is too short, and its hours too fleeting, to be wasted in discontent, and grant me so to employ the days that are yet spared me, that they may not be burthened at their close with the remembrance of happiness impaired by fretful impatience, or sinful recrimination. Grant this for His sake, who was meek and lowly of heart, and in whose blessed steps I fain would tread. Grant this for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. *Amen.*

Jan. 17, 18—

ON A REMOVAL AND CHANGE OF DUTIES.

ALMIGHTY GOD, in every event of life thou hast been a father and a benefactor unto me: in childhood my support, in youth my guide, in health my reliance, and in sickness my spiritual strength and comfort. As I look back through my past days, I find every year has added to my debt of gratitude, by making every change it brought, an increase of happi-

ness. Resting on thy guidance, let me now enter with humble, yet filial confidence, on this change of outward duties unto which I am called, nor fear to be forsaken by that fatherly hand, which so long has guided me in the paths of peace: entering upon these duties, I trust with no unworthy motive, I yet look unto thy mercy alone for power to fulfil them: what in me is weak or feeble, do thou strengthen; what is corrupt, purify; what is doubting, confirm; what is dark, enlighten; what is low, raise and exalt; that so all my faculties and powers may be devoted to the performance of duty, and all my labors be accompanied with thy blessing. On thy mercy I cast myself for the pardon of past errors. on thy grace I lean for security against them for the time to come; on the aids of thy Spirit alone do I depend, through my Saviour's merits, that I may run my course in faith, and then rest from my labors; that when called hence, I may be gathered unto my fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the confidence of a reasonable, religious and holy hope, in peace with thee, O God, and in perfect charity with the world. All which I

ask, through the merits and mediation of my Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

Nov. 9, 18—

PRAYER UNDER THREATENING SICKNESS.

O MERCIFUL GOD, who hast seen fit to visit me with infirmity of health, look down in mercy upon me, through all the trials to which I may therein be called; strengthen me by thy grace, and comfort me with the consolations of thy blessed Spirit; that I may submit with resignation, and endure with fortitude, all the pains of body, and anxieties of mind, to which it may subject me. Grant me to receive with thankfulness all the alleviations thou hast prepared for me, in the affectionate attentions of anxious friends; and to show forth in disease and weakness, the living power of Christian faith and hope; bearing with patience the sorrows of the present life, by referring them all to thy appointment, and looking forward with well-founded confidence, to the rest of a future world, through my Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

Feb. 21, 18—

ON RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

O Almighty God, and heavenly Father, whose goodness has followed me through the whole course of my life; I return thee most humble and devout thanks for raising me, as thou hast now done, from the bed of sickness, and restoring me once more to health of body and strength of mind. Grant, O my God, that I may never forget the impression made on me, when I thought myself on the verge of the grave; and if, at that moment, my peace of mind was owing to thy unmerited and overflowing mercy, oh, let my grateful heart never cease to bow before thee, in fervent and humble adoration: but if weakness of body deadened the feelings of my soul, which a deep sense of my own unworthiness leads me to believe; still let me rejoice in the God of my salvation, who saved me from every kind of terror, and has now graciously been pleased to allow me further time, and the promised aids of his Holy Spirit, to assist my feeble endeavors after a better preparation.

O heavenly Father, vouchsafe with thy choicest blessings to reward my kind and beloved friends, who so anxiously and tenderly watched over me. In their hour of need may the same kindness be shown to them, and may thou, the GOD of all comfort, smooth their bed, and make it easy to them; and when this short life is past, receive us all to thy heavenly kingdom, and reunite us in thy blessed presence, through the merits of our only Saviour and Redeemer, JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

August 7, 18—

ON RETURN FROM A JOURNEY.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, and most merciful Father, for all thy mercies during my absence from home,—for thy preservation of my beloved family in health and peace, — for my own safe return,—vouchsafe to make me truly thankful: let me ever remember with a grateful heart this and all thy other mercies, and grant, I most humbly beseech thee, that my future life may be more truly devoted to thy service, thy grace directing, and thy Holy Spirit assisting me to better obedience, and more deep

and sincere repentance; that so I may at the last find pardon and acceptance, through the merits and intercession of my ever blessed Saviour and Redeemer, JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.* June 5, 18—

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.

ALMIGHTY GOD, my Creator and Preserver, by whose mercy my life has been continued to the beginning of another year; grant me with increase of days, increase of holiness; that as I live longer, I may be better prepared to appear before thee, when thou shalt call me from my present state: make me, O LORD, truly thankful for all the mercies which thou hast vouchsafed to show me through my whole life; more especially at the present season, for the health thou hast restored unto me; and grant, that the remains of my strength and life may be employed to thy glory and my own salvation. Take not, O LORD, thy Holy Spirit from me; but enable me, by thy strength, to overcome or avoid all that may hinder my advancement in godliness: let me be no longer idle, no longer

sinful, but give me rectitude of thought, and constancy of action, and bring me at length to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

Jan. 1, 18—

PRAYER FOR DIVINE PROTECTION OF ABSENT FRIENDS.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting GOD, vouchsafe, we most humbly beseech thee, to guard and protect our beloved friends, now exposed to the dangers of the stormy ocean: but thou art ever with them, and oh, let that thought save us from vain misgivings, and too deep anxiety, trusting to thy mercy and oft experienced goodness, to restore them to us in health and safety; that we may kneel once more under our own roof, in united prayer to thee, who art the author of all our blessings; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve thee with grateful, devoted, and obedient hearts; and be blest with thy pardoning love, through the merits of our Saviour and Redeemer, JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

Nov. 1, 18—

PRAYER FOR THE RECOVERY OF A DEAR CHILD.

O MY gracious GOD, and most merciful Father, vouchsafe, we humbly beseech thee, to restore to health our beloved child, now suffering on the bed of pain and sickness, and if it shall please thee to bless us with *her* recovery, grant to *her* and us an abiding sense of thy great mercy and goodness; that under every event of life we may put our whole trust and confidence in thee, and believe, and feel, that all thy dispensations are for our good, and eternal happiness. Hear my prayer, O GOD, for the sake of my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

March 7, 18—

ON THE DEATH OF A DEAR CHILD.

O MY gracious GOD, who hast seen fit to call home our beloved child, grant to us who are left ever to feel, as we now do, thy goodness, wisdom, and mercy, in this deep bereavement. Enable us, by thy Holy Spirit, so to pass the remainder of our days, that at the hour of death, we, like *her*, may depart in

peace, and rejoin *her* in the realms of bliss, through the atoning blood and all-prevailing intercession of our Saviour and Redeemer, JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.* March 8, 18—

ON THE SEVERE SICKNESS OF A DEAR FRIEND.

O MY heavenly Father, and my GOD, vouchsafe, I most humbly beseech thee, to restore to health and usefulness my beloved *friend;* and though I am not worthy to receive so great a blessing, yet for thy goodness' sake, O my GOD, hear and grant my earnest petition; and let this thy great mercy increase my love, gratitude, and sense of duty to thee, who hast ever been bountiful and gracious to me, far beyond my poor and unworthy deserts: but if, in thy unsearchable wisdom and love, thou seest fit to deny my prayer, and this is to be *her* bed of death, vouchsafe to smooth her pillow, and make it easy to *her* by thy holy consolations: may *her* Redeemer save, receive, and bless her: may *her* Sanctifier speak peace and joy to *her* departing spirit; and may we,—we who shall be left in this world of wo, grant that we may praise

and magnify thy glorious name, and be enabled to say in firm faith, and with pious trust, "Thy will be done;" and this I humbly pray for my blessed Saviour's sake. *Amen.*

March 3, 18—

ON THE PEACEFUL DEATH OF A DEAR FRIEND.

O MOST merciful GOD and Father, who hast heard our prayers, in granting a peaceful departure to my dear *friend;* grant unto me such a contrite, such a penitent heart, that equal peace may bless my last moments, also; wash me, I humbly beseech thee, in my Saviour's blood; purify me by thy Holy Spirit, and let my remains of life be devoted to thy service, in tranquillity and holy hope. May the remembrance of *her* great love and many virtues, be unto me a new and abiding motive to a pure and Christian life; and may the blessed hope of meeting *her* again in heaven, support me under the trials, comfort me under the sorrows, and strengthen me amid the temptations of life. Grant this, through the atonement and intercession of our blessed and only Redeemer, JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

May 1, 18—

IN READING THE SCRIPTURES.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, bless my sincere endeavors in seeking from them the knowledge of thy will: may their diligent perusal enlighten my understanding, strengthen my faith, confirm my hopes, enlarge my charity, and amend my life: may they fit me to pass through the days thou shalt yet allow me, in the faithful performance of my Christian duties, in the temperate and thankful enjoyment of all thy blessings, and in a calm and willing resignation to every dispensation of thy providence; and when called hence, may they prepare me to obey thy summons without sorrow, and without fear, knowing in whom I have trusted, and looking through His merits alone, for pardon and acceptance, and a blessed reunion with those dear friends who have gone before me to the world of spirits.

For my blessed Saviour's sake, hear, I beseech thee, this my prayer; pardon my manifold and great offences; take not thy

Holy Spirit from me, but grant me peace now and ever. *Amen.* March 16, 18–

AGAINST THE ALLUREMENTS OF THE WORLD.

ALMIGHTY GOD, and most merciful Father, thou hast encompassed me with blessings, and crowned me with mercy and loving kindness: thou hast filled even to overflowing, my cup of earthly felicity: suffer it not, I beseech thee, to intoxicate my judgment, nor to corrupt my affections: let not prosperity blind my eyes to the vanity of the world, nor harden my heart to the calamities of others: suffer me not to be lured into folly, or ensnared in sin, through the temptations of a too prosperous state. Safe on the steps of thy throne, O blessed JESUS, may I remain tranquil and blest; and bid the world go by with all its deceiving vanities: neither let me become too deeply engaged even in its serious pursuits, lest my heart be overcharged with its cares, and forget the one thing needful; lest my soul cleave unto the dust, and lose its heavenly inheritance.

If riches increase, let me not set my heart upon them; but, remembering that after a reasonable provision for the wants of my own household I am but a steward of thy bounty, employ them for the relief of the poor and afflicted, for the instruction of the ignorant, for the conversion of the Heathen, and whatever other form of Christian benevolence may arise for the temporal and eternal happiness of my fellow-men. Or should adversity await me, to whatsoever state thou shalt call me, grant that I may be therein content; knowing how quickly this world passeth away, and the fashion of it, and that I may carry nothing out, but the remembrance of time and talents well employed. When called to render my account, may such be my consolation on the bed of death, and in the day of judgment, through JESUS CHRIST, my only Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

April 5, 18—

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